as INS Vikramaditya) scheduled to be delivered in 2008, is likely to cost heavily beyond the commitment besides causing abnormal delay in delivery;

(b) if so, whom can this fault be attributed to India or Russia;

(c) how much cost escalation would occur; and

(d) whether the U.S. aircraft carrier USS Nimitz under U.S.-India defence deal, is likely to be decommissioned soon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) The Russian side has submitted a revised Master Schedule indicating a delay in the project and an increase in price for repair and re-equipping of ex-Admiral Gorshkov. The process of the examination of the scope and necessity for additional work projected by Russian side has been initiated.

No verifiable information is available regarding whether USS aircraft carrier Nimitiz is likely to be decommissioned.

Pension to Ex-jawans/ex-servicemen

2527. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M.Ps.' and M.L.As.' who are completing one term *i.e.* five years, are getting pensions;

(b) whether it is also a fact that ex-jawans/ex-servicemen who have completed upto 14 years are not getting pension;

(c) whether Government considers it an injustice and anomaly;

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) the action Government would like to ensure that ex-jawans/ex-servicemen of above five years service also get pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) As per the 'Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Act, 2006', a pension of Rs. 8,000/- per mensem shall be paid to every person, who has served for any period as a member of the Provisional Parliament or either House of Parliament. The pension of M.L.A.s is regulated by the respective State legislatures details of which are not maintained in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per provisions, the minimum qualifying service required to earn service pension is 20 years for Commissioned Officers and 15 years for Personnel Below Officer Rank. No change in the existing policy is presently contemplated by the Government.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. MPs/MLAs and ex-jawans/ex-servicemen belong to different categories. which are not comparable, being governed by separate set of rules.

Establishment of Oceanarium complex and marine theme park

2528. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has submitted a project to establish an Oceanarium complex and Marine Theme Park for facilitating and strengthening the advanced research

and study on Ocean life to the Central Government seeking its support and participation of Central Government by 50% of the cost; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Earth Sciences has a scheme for setting an Oceanarium in the country with objectives of pursuing Science on Marine Biology, Marine Chemistry, Marine Ecosystem etc. as well bringing awareness about the Marine Flora and Fauna to the general public.

The selection of site for the Oceanarium will be done considering Ocean Science and Technology base, suitable site availability, connectivity from land and Ocean and tourist potential.

Seismic surveys capability of Sagar Nidhi

2529. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the newly acquired Rs. 230 crore ship "Sagar Nidhi" is also having "seismic surveys" capabilities, apart from obtaining oceanographic and hydrographic information, so that availability of crude oil and gas could also be found without incurring any extra capital expenditure or operational costs; and

(b) if so, would software, if any, required for the purpose be designed in consultation with ONGC, Oil India etc.?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir. The newly acquired vessel Sagar Nidhi is a Technology Demonstration Vessel and does not have seismic survey capability.

(b) Dose not arise.

Categorization of earthquake prone areas

2530. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the earthquake prone areas have been classified into various categories in the country;

(b) if so, the norms adopted for the classification;

(c) the earthquake resistant measures undertaken by Government during each of the last three years, category-wise; and

(d) the details of the allocation made and expenditure incurred by Government in this regard during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, I Sir.

(b) These areas have been classified based on the data available from past earthquake event. Particularly in terms of occurrences, frequencies and intensities over different regions of the country. The Bureau of Indian Standards has divided the country broadly into four